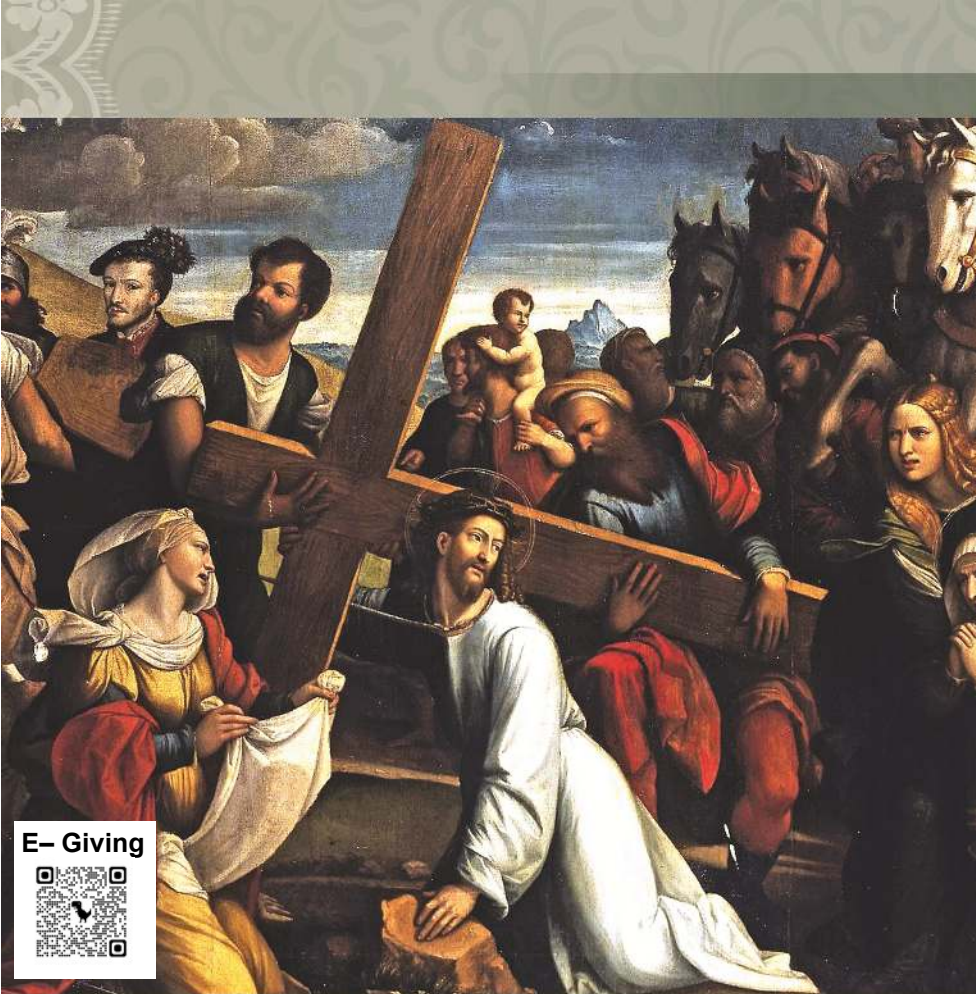


September 7, 2025

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF Saint Mark

1505 Kempsville Rd. • Virginia Beach, VA 23464-7201
Phone: 757-479-1010 • Fax: 757-479-9453 • Website: www.stmark-parish.org



E- Giving



23rd Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." - Lk 14:27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MASS SCHEDULE:

**Saturday: 5:30pm/ Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am/
Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am/
Wednesday at 7:00pm**

✠ Catholics are encouraged to make pilgrimages to their local cathedral during the 2025 Jubilee year.

✠ Bishop Barry C. Knestout has named four churches in the diocese as pilgrimage sites for the Jubilee Year 2025:

1. The Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Norfolk
2. The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
3. **The Basilica of St. Andrew, Roanoke**
Parish Pilgrimage:
Dec. 13, 2025
Bus Sign-up available
In the Commons.
4. The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Williamsburg

Bulletin Publication date:
8/29/25



“Rooted in the Word...”

This Week at Saint Mark September 8 - September 14th, 2025

MONDAY	
7:00pm	OCIA Team Meeting/Conference Room
TUESDAY	
8:30am	Liturgy of the Word/Daily Chapel
9:00am	Mother's Group/ Sanctuary/ Nursery
10:00am	Virtus In-person Training/ Great Hall
10:00am	Seasons of Hope Grief Group/ Library
2:00pm	Daughters of Fatima Prayer Group/DC
6:00pm	Parish Life Meeting/Conference Room
WEDNESDAY	
10-1:00pm	Food Pantry/ Great Hall
6:00pm	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena/ DC
6:30pm	Rosary/ Sanctuary
7:00pm	Liturgy of the Word/Sanctuary
THURSDAY	
6:00am	Men of St. Joseph/ Conference Room
8:30am	Liturgy of the Word/Daily Chapel
9-11:00am	PLARN/Great Hall
6:30pm	KofC Officers Meeting/ Conference Room
7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal/ Sanctuary
FRIDAY	
12:00pm	Wisdom Seekers Potluck/Great Hall
SATURDAY	
5:30pm	Exultation of the Holy Cross Mass/ Sanct.
SUNDAY	
8:30am	Exultation of the Holy Cross Mass/ Sanct.
10:30am	Exultation of the Holy Cross Mass/ Sanct. with Face Book Livestream
3:30pm	Religious Formation Kick-off/ Great Hall

Save these Dates:

- **Oct. 11th** - Catholic Fest, a diocesan event at the Diamond Baseball Stadium, Richmond. Sign up in the Commons for Car- Pooling Opportunities
- **Dec. 13th** - St. Andrew Parish Pilgrimage, Roanoke, VA; Sign up in the Commons for St. Mark Bus Transportation.

Sacraments at St. Mark

Contact Parish Secretary in the Parish Office to begin the processes of BAPTISM or MARRIAGE.

BAPTISM: Celebrated the 1st weekend of the month except during Holy Week. Requirement: **Families must be registered.** Contact Religious Formation Office for Baptism classes prior to the Sacrament. Confirm Baptism date and time with Parish Secretary after all requirements have been turned in.

MATRIMONY: Couples required to give 6 months notice before planning a wedding in the Parish. Please do not set date before contacting the Priest.

RECONCILIATION: Celebrated 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at 4:00 p.m.

Samaritan Ministry: Would you like to be part of St. Mark's Samaritan Ministry? Volunteers visit the sick and those unable to get to mass on a regular, short-term or long-term basis. Training will be provided. If you would like to be a Samaritan Ministry volunteer, or to receive a visit from a Samaritan Ministry volunteer, contact Ann-Marie Cochran at 757-621-0699 for more details.

Daily Readings

MONDAY 9/8	Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Micah 5:1-4a; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23
TUESDAY 9/9	Mem. of St. Peter Claver, Priest Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 6:12-19
WEDNESDAY 9/10	Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 6:20-26
THURSDAY 9/11	Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 6:27-38
FRIDAY 9/12	1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; Luke 6:39-42
SATURDAY 9/13	Mem. Of St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49
SUNDAY 9/14	Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross Numbers 21:4b-9; Philippians 2:6-11;

Mass Requests

**Pablo, Elizabeth and Jeordie Gatchelian †
Stella Izuegbunam– Special Intention**

While Fr. Eric is away, a Liturgy of the Word will be available during the week at St. Mark. Daily Masses will be offered during the week at the following area churches:

St. Mathew (Mon., Wed.)	Church of Ascension (Tues.- Fri.)
St. Luke (Tues.- Fri.)	St. Gregory the Great (Tues.- Fri.)
Prince of Peace (Tues.- Fri.)	St. Stephen ,Martyr (Mon., Wed.)

* Visit church **websites** above for Daily Mass times.



Jayme Oliveira Filho, Louisa Morrison, Maribeth Baumgartner, Dare O'Ravitz, Joy Lepere, Teresita Gustafson, Angie Hudson, Brian Lazo, Caroline Padilla, Carol Brown Gigliola Kamp-Casto, Erlinda Mariado, Lorraine Stambaugh, Herminio Lazo, Su Byles, Susan Colonna, Lexie Murray, Adriane Pennington, Rosendo Ibanez, Reynaldo Francisco, Annora Steiner, Julie Bellingier, Chandler Brewer, Val Kandis, Jay Davis, Olivia Wiggins, Armida Valmeo, Nikolas Pakkidis, Jeremiah Macaraeg, Sarada Kapuwatte, Connie Blanco, Ryan Steele, Paul Caddies, Molly Kibble, Patricia MacCartney, Trish Simpson, Billie Dudley, Antonio and Gloria Fernando, Kenneth Delorenzo, Dana Reid, Joe Bennett, Reynaldo and Virginia Corsino, Margaret Schmidt, Virginia Creencia, John and Patty Allen

Mission Statement: Rooted in the Word...nourished by the Sacraments...Guided by the Holy Spirit...We, the people of St. Mark, are united in our desire to serve those who are in need, to give our gifts and talents...to build the Kingdom of God by imaging Jesus Christ...(Established 1978)

To learn more about our parish, visit our website at: stmark.parish.org or visit: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicChurchOfStMark>

Nourished by the Sacraments

A Reflection on the Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 14:25-33

By Jerome J. Sabatowich

Like other teachers of his day, Jesus sometimes used exaggeration to emphasize a point. To stress that our loyalty to him is most important, Jesus says in today's Gospel that anyone who wants to be a follower first has to turn his back on parents and family. Jesus does not literally mean we should sever all our ties with those we love, but that we shouldn't allow anyone or anything to get in the way of being his disciple.

One of the most misunderstood passages in the New Testament is also part of today's Gospel. Jesus says that whoever wants to be his disciple must take up the cross and follow him, a passage some people interpret to mean Jesus wants us to patiently accept whatever pains and sorrows come our way. Without rejecting this explanation, there is another interpretation we should consider.

The Greek word for "cross" in this passage is *tau*, the name of one of the letters in the Greek alphabet. A tau looks something like a + or an X, and the Jews sometimes traced it on the forehead as a way of dedicating themselves to God. Thus, taking up one's tau or tracing the tau on one's forehead meant the person belonged to God just like a brand on a steer indicates it belongs to a particular rancher.

When Jesus says his followers should take up their cross (tau), he meant they should give themselves or dedicate themselves to God as the instruments he will use to bring his peace and love to the world. This dedication should be so complete that the person should not allow even family or friends to get in the way of living as Jesus' follower.

Because Jesus realizes what he is asking is not going to be easy, he warns those listening to him that they should first calculate what being his follower will involve. Like the man who built the tower or the king who went into battle, the person who wants to be Jesus' disciple must first determine if it is possible to complete the task, giving up family and possessions, if necessary, for the building of God's kingdom. That's the challenge for us Christians everyday of our lives.

For Reflection

Francis of Assisi knew what dedicating one's self to God really meant. Francis' famous prayer begins, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred let me bring love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; and where there is sadness, joy." Do you allow God to work through you, bringing his peace, love, joy, and forgiveness to your family and friends?

Please welcome Reverend Fr. Brian Rafferty who will preside at the St. Mark masses this weekend in Fr. Eric's absence.

Is OCIA for You?

Becoming a catholic is a joyous experience! Some receive this gift while they are infants, while others come into the catholic community later in life.

If you are an individual who has not yet been baptized, or if you have been baptized but have not received Eucharist or Confirmation, and you are looking to deepen your faith, we're so glad you're here!

If you are interested in learning more and/or beginning OCIA, please contact the Formation Office(nicole@stmark-parish.org) and a member of the OCIA Team will contact you.



All teens are invited to join the **MARKed Generation** for faith, fun, and fellowship! We've moved to a new night – the 4th Saturday of each month, right after the 530p Mass. Come and bring a friend as we grow together in Christ and discover how God has marked each of us with His love and purpose.

St. Mark's Youth Group is for 6th-12th Graders.

Our next event is our Video Game Tournament on September 27th, celebrating the canonization of St. Carlo Acutis.

Seasons of Hope 4 offers six sessions exploring our personal journeys of mourning through scripture, prayer, reflection, and faith sharing. This session begins Sept. 9th- October 14th at 10:00am in the St. Mark Library. If interested, please call Pat Winner at 757-578-4084 or Dale Mullin at 757-647-6994. Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

TUESDAYS 9:30AM THURSDAYS 7PM

9 SESSIONS STARTS WEEK OF SEPT 23 ENDS WEEK OF NOV 17

GOD

THE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY IN THE BIBLE

ELIZABETH KLEIN

\$20 BOOK COST DONATION
✉ FE@STMARK-PARISH.ORG

Join us for the upcoming Adult Bible Study, *God, the Mystery of the Trinity in the Bible*. Check for convenient times and days on sign-up sheets in the Commons.



Stations of the Cross Installation Complete

Deacon John congratulated Eagle Scout and St. Mark parishioner Nick Tabor whose Stations of the Cross installation was recently completed along a path near the St. Mark Pavilion behind the parking lot. Two Trex benches and additional finishing touches have been added by scouts, family and friends participating in Nick's project. The Prayer Path is now a serene, beautiful location where Stations of the Cross are always available for prayerful inspiration and devotional time. We are very grateful to Nick and to all who participated in Nick's very special project. All are welcome to visit!

"Building the Kingdom of God by Imaging Christ"

Justice Peace

For information on our Justice & Peace Ministries visit:
www.stmark-parish.org/ministries/justice-and-peace, or email:
justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



September: 9-15oz. boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes/
Individual meals: tuna snack kits, pop-top soup/pasta



Red Cross Blood Drive: At St. Mark on **Tuesday, September 16th** from **11am-5pm**. Every donation we collect can save up to three lives. Please visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CCSM to schedule an appointment or at the sign-up table in the Great Hall.



Through the month of **September** our Justice & Peace Ministry is collecting **Men's and Women's: Gloves/ Mittens, Winter Hats (knit caps), Scarves and Socks** for P.I.N. Ministry, Catholic Worker Breakfast Line, and our Food Pantry guests. ***Please only new or clean/gently used items*** Place donated items in the collection bin in the Great Hall next to Justice & Peace Bulletin Board.



Take a stand for life: September 24th - November 2nd our community will take part in 40 Days for Life. Where: Public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood 515 Newtown Road. Our St Mark group will stand vigil and pray on Mondays from 1-2pm. Please join us as we pray for an end to abortion. For more information justiceandpeace@stmark-parish.org



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing after Abortion **September 26-28, 2025**

If you've experienced the traumatic effects of abortion, we invite you to a confidential weekend retreat where women and men encounter the healing, compassion, and forgiveness of God.



Catholic Fest, a one-day festival full of music, food, family-fun, fellowship, and worship together as part of the diocesan celebration of the Jubilee of Hope. Musical acts will include Scythian, The Young Escape, Marie Miller, and local performers from our diocese. Complete with a Kid's Zone, vendors, food trucks, and more, you won't want to miss this opportunity for the whole family. **Scan the QR code above for more details.**

Sign up in the Commons if you plan to attend. Carpooling is encouraged! Watch for more exciting details in the bulletin and Flocknotes.

Parish Life

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

Upcoming Parish Life Events and Announcements



Food: Hamburgers, hot dogs, and beverages provided. Bring a side-dish or dessert to share.

Fun: Music, bouncy-house and face-painting for kids of all ages! All are welcome!

*In case of rain, the picnic will move to the Great Hall. For more details, contact Linda Major at 757-615-0763.

• Marriage is a reason and a season to celebrate! Parish Life is keeping a compiled record of anniversaries in our parish. If you have not yet recorded your anniversary, please stop by the Parish Life table in the Great Hall and add your special day to the Anniversary Booklet. Anniversaries are posted on the Parish Life Bulletin Board each month.

• **Happy Anniversary to the following St. Mark parishioners celebrating a September wedding anniversary this week!**

Arnold and Bhee Paat - September 8, 1979 (46 years)

Tim and Liza Grimshaw - September 14, 2006 (19 years)

***Heath and Sara Bachman - August 31, 2018 (7 years)**

• **The Wisdom Seekers** group monthly luncheons are back (2nd Friday of the month September thru June) for parishioners and friends 50+ years of age. **First potluck luncheon is September 12th, 12 pm, in Great Hall.** Please bring a dish to share (Last name begins A-M protein or salad dish, N-Z fruit or desert dish). Please contact Mary Shaw (757) 348-4460 for general group questions.



Columbarium Protection and Safety

The St. Mark Columbarium offers a beautiful and peaceful place to visit departed loved ones interred there.

To keep it safe and observe a few basic

considerations in this sacred place:

- Fresh flowers are permitted, but once the flowers are spent, vases will be removed and deposited at the back door for pick up.
- Food and drink are discouraged as it attracts pests.
- Open flame candles are a fire hazard and cannot be left there.

Announcements/ Giving/ Contact Information

Could \$5 change everything?



If every parish family gave just \$5 more per week, imagine what we could do— together.

Inflation touches everyone, even churches. At St. Mark, only \$5.00 per family added to your weekly donation would correct this inflationary trend in a positive way for our parish. Yes, imagine that... just \$5.00 weekly... no more than the cost of one your favorite beverages. Start now! For more details or to donate, contact Parish Bookkeeper, MaryEllen Cussen, at bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org or call the parish office at 757-479-1010.



The Catholic Diocese of Richmond has been asked to support **Catholic Relief Services** in their efforts to provide humanitarian and pastoral support to the people of Gaza. On the weekends of August 30-31 and September 5-6, all donations to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) will be directed to their relief efforts in Gaza. If you wish to contribute, please go to Online Giving on our website and select Catholic Relief Services for a one-time donation during this period, or write CRS on your check memo *payable to St. Mark Church* and place it in the collection. Thank you for all you do!

Parish Office Hours Adjustment

St. Mark Parish Office hours will resume the regularly scheduled time from 9:00am to 3:00pm on Tuesday, September 2nd. Hours are posted on the front doors.



Lots of Volunteers Needed!!

St. Mark's "Pumpkin Patch" pumpkins arrive **October 4th!** Look for on-line SHIFT sign-ups to help unload a tractor trailer FULL of St. Mark Pumpkin Patch Pumpkins going on sale **October 5th!!** Contact Mike King at 646-851-8334 for details or to volunteer.

Kid's Corner



Did You Hear?

Carlo Acutis is becoming a **SAINT** today! Carlo was like many of you - he loved video games, playing soccer, and hanging out with his friends. But he also had a HUGE love for Jesus, especially in the Eucharist. He used his computer skills to share his faith with the world, creating a website that helped people learn about miracles. Even though Carlo died when he was only 15, his life showed us how you can be holy no matter how young you are. The Church saw how much Carlo loved God and others, and now he's being canonized - which means he'll officially be recognized as a saint!

Why is this important? Because Carlo shows us that YOU can be a saint too! You don't have to be perfect - you just have to love Jesus and use your gifts to help others. You're a saint-in-the-making!



If you currently do not give online, but would like to be an online contributor, please sign up at: giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stmarkvb or donate on the Parish Giving QR code.

For more details or to donate, contact Parish

Bookkeeper, MaryEllen Cussen, at bookkeeper@stmark-parish.org or call the parish office



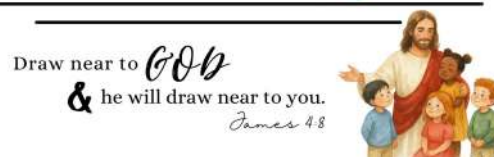
Fiscal Year July-June	August 24	Needed Year to Date New Fiscal Year	Offertory Year to Date	Excess/ (Short)
Offertory	\$17,582	\$151,000	\$147,133	(\$3,867)

Family Count: 796

Families using envelopes: 174

Families using online donation: 188

Catholic Church of St. Mark RELIGIOUS FORMATION PROGRAM 2025 2026



Registration is now open for the 2025-2026 Formation Year!

1 child - \$50
2 children - \$100
3+ children - \$150

Questions or concerns?
Contact Nicole Brimer at
nicole@stmark-parish.org
757.479.9897

• Scan QR Code to register



PARISH STAFF

Rev. Fr. Eric Asamoah.....freric@stmark-parish.org
Rev. Mr. John Kren.....Acting Pastoral Associate
deacon_john@stmark-parish.org
Sherry Smeland.....Parish Secretary
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Vikki IgnacioAssistant Music Director
Brian Gridley.....Facility/IT Coordinator
Renee McCroskey.....Nursery Supervisor
Hank Harzold.....Parish Council Chairman
Tom SmithCustodian
William McMican.....Finance Council Chairman

RELIGIOUS FORMATION STAFF

Fe Guzman.....Director of Religious Formation/Youth Minister
Nicole Brimer.....Coordinator of Religious Formation

RELIGIOUS FORMATION OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9:00a.m. – 3:00p.m. Sunday 9:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.
Phone: 757-479-9897 • Fax: 757-479-9897; Email: fe@stmark-parish.org